

# Shadow Mountain Club

**S**un  
**S**pots



CELEBRATING OUR  
EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

with

- INFORMAL OPENING OCTOBER 15
- COUNTRY FAIR OCTOBER 29



*October 1955*

*Palm Desert, California*



OPENING OCTOBER 14  
FOR OUR  
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— From the DESERT MAGAZINE, Palm Desert

## Thank You Palm Desert !!

Your fine patronage has enabled us to start construction on new and enlarged facilities which we hope will be ready in November. Meanwhile we're temporarily located in the Patio Shops opposite the library.

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## OCTOBER CALENDAR

COMING EVENTS AT YOUR

### Shadow Mountain Club



#### SPECIAL PARTIES AND EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1—CLUB OPEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15—INFORMAL OPENING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29—SHADOW MOUNTAIN COUNTRY FAIR

DAILY UNTIL OCTOBER 15

Snack Bar open 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.  
(No dining room luncheon service until October 15)  
Dinner in Indo Room—6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

SWIMMING — TENNIS — GOLF

#### DAILY AFTER OCTOBER 15

Sunday—Brunch 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M.  
Dinner 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Monday—Wednesday—Thursday  
Luncheon 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.  
Dinner 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Friday—Saturday  
Dinner Dancing—Main Dining Room  
Cocktail Lounge Open Noon to Clcising After October 15  
Club Closed Tuesdays

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#### SUN SPOTS — OCTOBER, 1955

Published at the Shadow Mountain Club, Palm Desert, California. Items of interest to members should be forwarded to "Sun Spots" Box 14, Palm Desert, Calif.

## ON THE COVER



People have been looking at and taking pictures of beautiful gateways for lo these many years, so we think it very apropo to start our first issue of the Sun Spots, 1955-56 season editions, with our brand spanking new entrance way spread across the cover. The construction work took place the past summer with the thermometer hovering around unmentionable temperatures but when Al Ahrens posed his new Buick for the cover picture in early September the weather was already starting to moderate, so now that you have seen a picture of it come on out, drive through and see the many new innovations and renovations that your club boasts for this it's eighth anniversary year on the desert.



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CALIFORNIA

## SEPTEMBER BUSY MONTH AT S.M.C.

It was such a frantic pace around the Club during September with Club Manager E. J. Boudreau setting the pace and all the maintenance and grounds crews and even the skeleton office staff trying to keep up with him. The Club closed Monday night, September fifth and by three p.m. September 6th the pool was three-quarters drained. The second day the completely empty pool looked mighty forlorn. Several more days were required to dry the interior of the pool before the sandblasters could begin.

Then, with the accompanying sounds of hammers and saws renovating the Clothes Horse and enlarging the dance floor, a sewing machine making draperies for the band stand, telephones ringing and the hustle and bustle of electricians, telephone men, carpet layers, painters, gardeners and numerous others, we plunged headlong into the job of giving the Club a new face.

Take a tour with us, and notice the transformation. From the distinctive new gateway with its smart blacktop approach, indirect lighting on the trees and a handsome new sign announcing Shadow Mountain Club, past the newly seeded golf greens, through the entrance and across the freshly painted brick terrace. Take a right around the stone wall toward the cocktail lounge, behold, a putting green. Now step inside and view the enchanting Shadow Dining Room. The enlarged dance floor extends into part of the former Manzanita Room. The remainder of that area has had a most effective face lifting with wall to wall carpeting laid by the carpet dept. of the Imperial Hardware Co. and band stand draperies made and installed by Hackborn's Carpet & Drapery Shop.

Standing on the south side of the Shadow room near the windows, look across the expanse of tables, each one command an almost ringside view of the band stand, beyond the dance floor to the rest of the ringside tables and you will see the seating arrangement for around four hundred persons, all in one charming dining room — The Shadow Room.

We can't overlook the kitchen, for good food and the proper serving of it depends largely upon a well equipped, orderly kitchen. Mr. Boudreau with his many years' managerial and catering experience with clubs and hotels and with Pan American Airways analyzed the kitchen set-up, decided what had to be done and what could be done to give maximum efficiency. Work areas were rearranged, new equipment ordered, old equipment overhauled and repaired and the walls were painted.

(Continued on page 5)



## GIGANTIC "COUNTRY FAIR" TO OPEN FALL FUN SEASON

Making its debut on the roster of famous and fabulous Shadow Mountain Club fun parties, the colossal "Country Fair" is scheduled for October 29, just two weeks after the Oct. 15 informal opening dinner dance.

Under the direction of party chairman, Cliff Henderson, and a committee of over 25 members, this affair promises to be one of the liveliest and most entertaining of the entire year.

Plans call for an afternoon of fun for the kids and grown-ups alike with a gigantic ferris wheel erected next to the swim pool and a side show in the cabana area complete with barkers, bearded ladies, Siamese twins, snake charmers, hindu fakirs, dancing girls and all the fan-fare that usually attends the midway of a big country fair. Children will receive free tickets for ice cream and lemonade. For the children that wish to remain for the evening show in the new Shadow dining room, specially priced menus will be available.

At five in the afternoon a street parade throughout the Palm Desert area will feature brass bands, and many of the side show acts. Incidentally, most of the performers and actors in this stupendous extravaganza are Shadow Mountain Club members or their friends.

This is one party you won't want to miss and one to which you'll want to invite your friends, so watch for the colorful announcements that will be coming your way the next few days and make sure your reservation is made at an early date.

We're not at liberty to make any formal announcements but we understand that several top ranking Hollywood screen and television personalities will appear on the show. So—as the old song goes—"Hi—Ho—Come to the Fair"—

**World's Largest 50 Foot  
Ferris Wheel  
Country Fair - October 29**

(Continued from page 4)

Back out on the terrace, look at that sparkling jewel of a pool now filled again after having been drained, sandblasted and painted with a final coat of Tahoe blue.

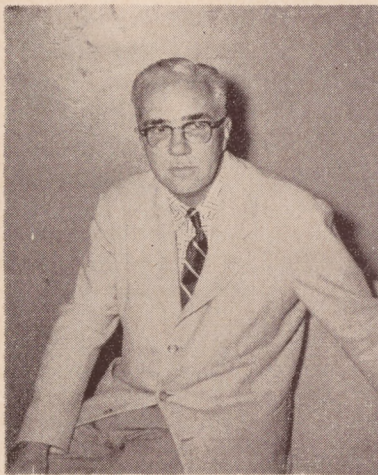
Shadow Mountain Lake was drained during the summer, had its walls painted and now filled again will be stocked by the State Fisheries. Youngsters will be allowed to cast their rods for a limit of three fish daily.

## TO ALL SHADOW MOUNTAIN CLUB MEMBERS

*It is with a great deal of pride that we open the 1955-56 season at Shadow Mountain.*

*In the last few months many changes and improvements have been made in and around the Club. Your officers, Board of Directors and management have given much time and thought to these significant changes and we sincerely hope you will share our enthusiasm.*

*The complete refurbishing of the Manzanita Room, making it a part of the main dining room, together with the new band section and its location, have corrected a situation long needed, necessary to properly seat and care for members and their guests. The pool with its new pale blue color, the addition of a putting green adjacent to the Club proper, and the beautiful new entrance to the Club grounds, all have enhanced the beauty of this desert gathering place, unsurpassed — anywhere.*



President "Andy" Moseley

*We are looking forward to greeting you at our informal opening Saturday, October 15, and our Country Fair Party October 29 promises you many surprises as one of our important yearly events.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Andrew S. Moseley  
President*

## INFORMAL OPENING OCTOBER 15

Dinner Dancing in the Elegant New SHADOW ROOM!

Delightful Music!  
Delicious Cuisine!  
Celebrities!

Plus an Outstanding Floor Show!

Your Club invites you to attend its Informal Opening, October 15. It is our casual time to draw the family back into the Club—drift around from group to group, meet the new faces and greet the old, wander across that expanded, gleaming dance floor and into the resplendent SHADOW DINING ROOM, then out on to the terrace to view our bright new gem of a pool, sparkling and pristine in its sandblasted glory, wearing a mantle of Tahoe blue. Or, step through the cocktail lounge to the newly created putting green. Join us that night to renew old friendships and reacquaint yourself with your luxurious Club. America's Foremost Family Club!

## Interiors

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We are proud to have had a part in the renovation of Shadow Mountain Club's New Dining Room

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## NEWS ABOUT THE STAFF

### RURACS RETURN

(and we're not referring to their tennis stroke)

Vini and Magda Rurac, our popular tennis pro and his gracious wife, who have been at the Denver Country Club and the Tennis Club in Chicago, respectively, have been invited by the Austrian and German Governments to represent the United States in various pro tennis tournaments throughout Europe during the month of October. They will leave for Europe the fifth of October, pick up a new Mercedes-Benz in Stuttgart, one of several cities on their itinerary which includes Paris, romantic Vienna and other famous cities in Europe. Vinnie called in this exciting information recently and sent his regrets that he would not be here for the October tennis activities. The Ruracs will be back in action on the courts November 15.

### MAITRE D'HOTEL

Frank Constant returns to the Club as Maitre D'Hotel for his third season. Mr. Constant has many years of experience in such outstanding clubs and hotels as the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles, Hotel Del Mar and New York's Murray Hill and Garden City Hotels.

Randall H. Smith, better known as Bob, and who is our new steward, comes to the Club with a background of many years' experience in the retail grocery business in St. Louis, 15 months as purchasing agent for the Balboa Bay Club, several years as manager of a Safeway store in Los Angeles and one in Oakland and 6 months as assistant manager of Pringle Drug in Riverside just prior to coming to SMC. Bob, his petit wife Marjorie

and 5 year old daughter Janet who goes to Palm Desert kindergarten are a pleasant addition to our staff.

Muriel Lawson, who joined SMC staff last May as publicity director and Membership secretary, has been appointed social hostess for the coming season. A former air line stewardess for the Flying Tiger Line, Miss Lawson has spent over nine thousand hours in the air between San Francisco, Honolulu, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Shannon, the Azores, Alaska and New York as hostess to more than twenty-three thousand passengers.

Miss Lawson attended Drake University and the University of Iowa and after four and one half years with the airline and just prior to starting with SMC was assistant publicity director for Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Lou Kuehner, who was employed this summer as recreation leader for the Sherwood Forrest Camping Service at St. Louis, Missouri, will return October 15 to take over the youth activities for the coming season.

Mrs. Gertrude Stretch, Assistant Secy.-Treas. will head our accounting department again this year with the assistance of Miss Thelma Ratterree. This will be the second season for both Mrs. Stretch and Miss Ratterree.

Fred Stretch will open the pro shop the first of October and will run it for Bob Pinnell until he returns from Sunnyside, Washington, the first of November.

Ruth Steiner returns as receptionist to greet the members and their guests for her third season. It would seem Ruth is trying to outdo Don in the business of remembering names and faces as she cheerily greets so many of the members by name.

## SUMMER "FUN" PARTIES ATTRACT MANY MEMBERS

If you went away this summer and did exciting things and saw new places don't feel sorry for us . . . we had a few extra volts of DC in our own summer agenda, DC meaning delirium confabulations, especially noted during the School Daze Party wherein such staid and serious folk as George and Ann Fleming arrived, as the last bell was ringing, in Little Lord Fauntleroy outfit and hairbows and long black stockings. Others attending the School Daze Party on July 23 were Huck (Mike Munier) Finn and Becky (of course Lou M.) Thatcher and Bob Coates as a combination of Dan'l Boone, Li'l Abner an' Davy Crockett a totin' his gun. O'course Helen Coates was taggin' along in fancy pantalettes made in a somewhat extraordinary fashion.

Further evidence of the delightful confusion of the summer will be found in the pictures of the Midsummer Madness Party which proved to be so appropriately named. The attendance of over 200 persons on that beautiful night of August 13 was so gratifying and the utterly mad male models created such a hilarious atmosphere in their exquisite creations of old pasteboard boxes, gunnysacks, lampshades and what have you, it would seem the Midsummer Madness Party is well established as an annual affair.

## SPAREY-HOLT ACQUIRE ELLSWORTH AGENCY

One of the major business transactions of the Palm Desert area occurred this summer when Col. Bob Ellsworth sold his insurance and real estate agency on Highway 111 to the Sparey-Holt Co. of Indio.

The Indio firm, headed by Chet Sparey and Harry M. Holt, Jr., is one of the pioneer insurance firms of the Coachella Valley and have an organization that combined totals more than 95 years of experience in the insurance business. Both Chet and Harry are Shadow Mountain Club members and at present Chet Sparey is headquartering at the Palm Desert office.

Bob Ellsworth, a veteran of both World Wars I and II and a West Point graduate, founded the firm, the first in Palm Desert, in 1946.

Gene Steel who spent part of her vacation in Chapel Hill, North Carolina visiting with her former employer and his family and in Chicago visiting relatives will be back as secretary to the board on October 15. This will be Gene's second season.

## AHRENS - BUICK - G.M.C.

• • •

We wish to thank our Coachella Valley customers for their patience while we operate in temporary quarters pending completion of our new facilities.

• • •

We know that the NEW BUICK is the hottest car in America, But even **we** we're surprised when our building burned.

Temporary Location

83-105 Hwy. 99—INDIO—Phone 7-3601





A familiar scene last year at one of Shadow Mountain's most popular parties, the "Coronation" Night. Member interest in this Monday night affair is so high that plans this year call for the festivities to start in December rather than January as in the past.

**COUNTRY FAIR**  
 October 29  
**FREE LEMONADE**  
**FREE ICE CREAM**  
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 It'll leave you breathless

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## RYDER CUP MATCHES AT THUNDERBIRD NOV. 5-6

The nearby Thunderbird Ranch and Country Club will be the scene on Nov. 5 & 6 of one of the golfing world's great spectacles, the biennial Ryder Cup matches in which teams representing the Professional Golfers' Association of America and Great Britain meet in a series of matches to determine International supremacy in the wonderful game of golf.

The American team recently selected by the PGA from among the country's best pros on a basis of points built up during 1954 and 1955 will be captained by Chick Harbert and will include Cary Middlecoff, Tommy Bolt, Doug Ford, Ted Kroll, Jerry Barber, Jack Burke, Jr., Marty Furgol, Chandler Harper, Sam Snead, and Lloyd Mangrum. Mangrum has been named honorary captain by the PGA. The British contingent will be headed by their captain Dai Rees and will include such famous names as Cotton, J. R. M. Jacobs, and Peter Alliss among others.

Play is on the basis of eight men to a team with each team carrying two alternates for a total of 10 golfers.

Thunderbird club members will team with the Ryder cup stars in a pro-member tournament on October 29 and 30 thus giving the visitors plenty of opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Thunderbird layout. Work has progressed steadily all during the past summer in the renovation of many of the greens and fairways at Thunderbird so that today it is in as fine a shape as possible for the big event.

To give you an idea of just how important the golf fans take this event we would like to report that a Palm Springs hotel has several reservations from London, England for the big show. Ticket information is available at the Shadow Mountain Club office.

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# Club Closeups..

Who! When! Where!

By GRETCHEN

After a wonderful summer season—I mean, the summer was rugged but your Shadow Mountain Club offered so many wonderful parties, delicious food served in the Summer Dining Room, pool-side festivities, out-door movies, that the heat was forgotten. Most of the desert folk that did go away were glad to get home—where swimming, casual clothes and star-studded skies made it all “seem cooler.”

New members that have come into the Shadow Mountain Club during the summer months are: Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Dahlberg, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley L. Sniff, Mr. and Mrs. Harland J. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Brammer, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Pautz, all of Indio; Mr. and Mrs. James E. C. Kernick-Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Connelly and Warren Sydney Mooney, of Thermal; Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Scrivner, of Palm Springs; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Wright, Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Tom J. Alongi, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar C. Schill, Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Donovan, and Gerald L. Tondou, Palm Desert; Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Harder, Lake-wood, California; Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Lawrence, Duarte; Mr. and Mrs. Lester C. Cox, Coachella; Miss Carolyn B. Matthias, West Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Lionel G. Baird of San Francisco and Palm Desert; Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Rowe, Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs. John R. Coonan of Rancho Mirage.



Caught during  
“recess” at the July  
“School Daze” party,  
from left, Cliff  
Henderson, Evelyn  
Smith and Mr. and  
Mrs. Bob Coates.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanson, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Palm Desert, made many flying trips here during the summer—and Shadow Mountain Club was the “hub” of their entertaining activities.

The July 4th week-end festivities brought many members to the Club. Mr. and Mrs. Jean McFarren and their two sons from Pasadena—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bireley and son, of Los Angeles; Mrs. Rene Gale, Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Schwilck, Mr. and Mrs. Rudd Hackborn, Mrs. Dorothy Dudley, Mrs. Charlotte Steward, Mrs. Bobbie Reichert, Mrs. “B. B.” Bechoff, the Howard Elgoods, Stewart Trumbles, Hal Kapps, Ralph Dietz and C. H. Bosworths, all of Palm Desert.



New Shadow Mountain Club members John and June Coonan, left, photographed with Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Button at one of the summer parties, recently purchased the Rancho Mirage Hotel Apartments from SMCer Tony Whan of Los Angeles. The Coonans, plan to forsake that smoggy town of Hollywood for our salubrious desert air, to return to do only a “couple of pictures a year.” Welcome to the Club, Coonans, and welcome to the ONLY WAY OF LIFE.

P.S. Your social committee has already elicited a promise from Mr. Coonan to donate his professional advice and aid on some of our upcoming parties.

The July 23rd party, “A Day at School” was a “Kid Costume” affair and over 100 members and guests attended.

August 13, one of the warmest evenings of the year was a “Crazy with the Heat” party and turned out just that with a record breaking crowd. This gives you an idea “who” braved the heat and “where” they had their summer fun!

We now turn to “when” will they be back and the round of “Hello’s,” “glad to see you” and “how was your summer?” The next few weeks will see Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Fisher back from Wisconsin and Lake Tahoe, also Los Angeles, Edith Eddy Ward and Bunny Ward after a three months summer at Lazy H Ranch, Mrs. Polly Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Nolen Allen, Mr. Fred Siemen back from his European trip, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Blenkhorne, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moon, Mrs. John G. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ritchie, new owners of the “Desert Patch,” Mr. and Mrs. George Walling, and George and Ruby Moore, new home owners in the Shadow Mountain Manor, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Obern, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Allgower, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Sergeant, of Richland, Michigan; Hazel Seargeant has had great success with “Coronation Night” this summer at the Gull Lake Country Club. And no doubt will the “Maestra” here this winter for Monday Night “Coronation.”

Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Poulsen, of Akron, Ohio, will spend several winter months in their new home on Joshua Tree St. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Bear will soon return from Europe, for the winter season. Other well-known personalities back from summer vacations will be: Mrs. Edna Value, Mrs. June Crooker, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Ives, Dr. and Mrs. P. Martin Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schmidt, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Morrey, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brown.



## TRAVELING IN MEXICO BY AUTO

By EARL R. OBERN

Sightseeing in Mexico by auto is a fascinating experience—at least we found it so. We visited Mexico because we heard of the warm-hearted expressive people, the beauty of its tropical mountains, seashores, cathedrals and haciendas.

It is a country of contrasts and this is why it is so interesting. Best of all you can travel there for about 40% less than U.S.A. Leaving Palm Desert in May we drove down to El Paso where we stayed over night in order to secure all necessary insurance, Mexican money, etc., from the AAA office there, who were most helpful. I do not know how we could have made our trip to Mexico in comfort if we did not have the book "Mexico by Motor" of the AAA.

It was a lovely sunny morning as we crossed the border into Mexico and stopped at the Mexican customs who examined our baggage and gave us our auto permit (they will expect a few pesos here). They were considerate, thorough and prompt. The drive to Chihuahua was through the usual western desert country, and we found rest, a good swim in a nice pool, and excellent food at the AAA Santa Rita Motel at Chihuahua. Twin bedroom, bath, etc., \$2.40 or 30 pesos. European plan. The next morning we made a special point of visiting the home where the famous Pancho Villa lived. Here we found his widow, Mrs. Luz C. de Villa, who was a most charming hostess. Mrs. Villa showed us Pancho Villa's personal guns, sombrero, clothing, uniform, and much other evidence of his colorful career. There is little of other interest there except the plaza or markets.

Next we drove over more desert country, passing many villages which were built before Columbus discovered America, and passed through Ciudad Camargo where you will find two excellent modern motels. But being early we forged ahead to Hidalgo del Parral. Here we found excellent AAA accommodations at the El Camino Real (with dining room). Rate for beautiful twin bedroom and bath, \$2.50 American money, E plan. Hidalgo del Parral is a primitive mining town and its history dates back to the discovery of rich metallic ores in the sixteenth century. Later the Spanish forced the Indians to work in the mines, and the troops of Napoleon III occupied Parral. There are the usual gorgeous cathedrals and an old fort.

Motoring along at about 6000 feet elevation we came to Durango where we stayed at AAA Campo Mexico courts for \$4.40 twin beds E plan. Here you have your first real marketing thrill. The markets specialize in leather work, from shoes to saddles and simple wooden furniture.

*Earl R. Obern, the author of this article, together with Mrs. Obern are extensive travelers. They recently returned from a trip to Mexico and visited the Hawaiian Islands in 1952 for six months. Mr. Obern was formerly Financial Editor for Hearst newspapers, a banker and business executive. He is a prominent public relations and business counsellor handling problems of corporations, hotels and clubs. This winter a number of members plan to visit Mexico as a Shadow Mountain Club group, with Mr. Obern in charge of the trip. If you are interested write him at P. O. Box 546, Palm Desert, California.*

Durango is located on a level plain, rich in agriculture—growing cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables. The mountains mine silver, gold and iron. Here the State prison is located which you can visit and purchase souvenirs from the inmates, take photos, etc. The beautiful cathedral which you may visit was built in 1695. A sidelight are the very large comic book stores.

Leaving Durango we headed south over the Tropic of Cancer through cactus covered country and arrived at Zacatecas which is located on a plateau 8187 feet high. Situated on the slopes of the hills the colorful buildings remind one of ancient Greece or Italy, and the stone steps connecting some of its steeply inclined streets accentuate this medieval feeling. Here we found an especially beautiful aqueduct in the heart of the city built by the Spanish, still in use. Although Zacatecas is mainly a silver mining center it is surrounded by agricultural and cattle raising ranches.

Gradually dropping down in altitude we skimmed along until we arrived at our next overnight stop—Aguascalientes (hot waters to you) where we stayed at the San Marcos Motor Hotel, one of the finest in Mexico. The steak dinner was only \$1.50 American money. The lovely twin bedroom and bath was 55 pesos or \$4.40 American money, and included a carport. The owner has his own dairy ranch and all the dairy products are pasteurized, according to the management. Vegetables are grown inside the motel grounds. Aguascalientes a city of 93,000 people, is most interesting. You can visit the Cathedral with its ancient catacombs. Cor-

(Continued on page 13)

# Kelley's

Palm Springs' Oldest and Largest  
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# Shadow Mountain

## DIARY

By SUNNY RAYS

WE LEFT YOU AT THE LUAU, but activities continue during the summer—the July 4 picnic, the School “Daze” party and the BOB COATES win a prize—the Midsummer Madness Party—September 5, after Labor Day and we close—and ERNIE BOUDREAU, our hustling manager, starts on his many projects—things are really happening around here—the old Manzanita Room becomes part of the main dining room, the carpet’s down, the new bandstand is up, and the HACKBORNS are busy around the stage—the new entrance becomes complete with rock wall and rustic club entrance sign—we hear that STAN JOSEPH and GENE ROBERTS are in conference these days—means that the Show House will be under way soon and NED BLADES tells us of another Manor House starting shortly. Many other improvements around the Club grounds—a brand new idea, a putting green in the open space adjacent to the bar and cocktail lounge—should call for contests with Thunderbird and other clubs, a terrific thought—the *Diary* moves ahead now and we look forward to our informal opening October 15, to CLIFF HENDERSON’S super Country Fair on the 29th, and the Bow Tie Formal several weeks later.

THOUGHTS OF THE SUMMER MONTHS — BOBBY REICHERT gives a birthday party for daughter, VIRGINIA—glad that EVELYN HACKBORN has fully recovered from a recent illness—the 20-30 Club of Indio and their get together of 36 at the Club—Beaming ERNIE BOUDREAU with his son, returned from the Service—



Ella Lou Kapp pausing after winning the free style rope skipping contest at the mid-July School Daze party.

JOSEPH MOON returned from Michigan and glad to see you back, Joe—ED SCHILL, the new manager of Thunderbird, and his family—30th wedding anniversary of BOB and MARY ELLSWORTH—the PETE PIERSONS and their new swimming pool—the many interesting guests of MRS. HUDSON WERDER—the HAL KAPPS and GRETCHEN and HANK CHEESEMAN, and many, many others so frequently seen during the summer months. A note now and then from the ED SERGEANTS in Michigan—hurry back, Hazel, for the coronation nights—Greetings to BOB SMITH, our new steward and to MURIEL “SKIP” LAWSON, membership secretary and our social hostess for the coming season. That’s about it, folks, see you in October.

### DESERT INFORMATION OASIS

(KLIP AND KEEP FOR READY REFERENCE)

#### CHURCHES

##### Christian Science Services

Sunday at 11 a.m. — Wednesday at 8 p.m.  
Desert Magazine Building, Palm Desert

##### Palm Desert Community Church

Church School—Sunday 9:45 a.m.  
Services and Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

##### Rotary Club of Palm Desert

Fridays — 12:15 p.m. — Shadow Mountain Club

#### EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire ..... 76-2191  
Sheriff ..... Indio 7-3571  
Calif. Highway Patrol ..... 7-3444  
Ambulance ..... 7-3378

#### BONANZA AIRLINES

Two flights daily to and from  
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Lv. Thermal Airport 8:41 a.m. Arr. L.A. 9:45 a.m.  
Lv. Thermal Airport 6:06 p.m. Arr. L.A. 7:15 p.m.  
Lv. L.A. 8:15 a.m. Arr. Thermal 9:23 a.m.  
Lv. L.A. 5:30 p.m. Arr. Thermal 6:38 p.m.

#### WESTERN AIRLINES

From Los Angeles arrive Palm Springs 4:13 p.m.  
To Los Angeles leave Palm Springs 4:35 p.m.  
(All schedules subject to change)

#### COMING EVENTS IN THE DESERT AREA

Golf Tournament

##### COACHELLA VALLEY OPEN

October 8-9, 1955  
Tamarisk Country Club  
Golf Tournament

##### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN

October 26-30 inclusive, 1955  
Tamarisk Country Club

##### RYDER CUP MATCHES

October 29 through November 6, 1955  
Visiting British and American Pro's and  
Thunderbird members

October 29-30, 1955

##### EXHIBITION PLAY

##### MATCH PLAY

Top British Professionals  
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Thunderbird Country Club

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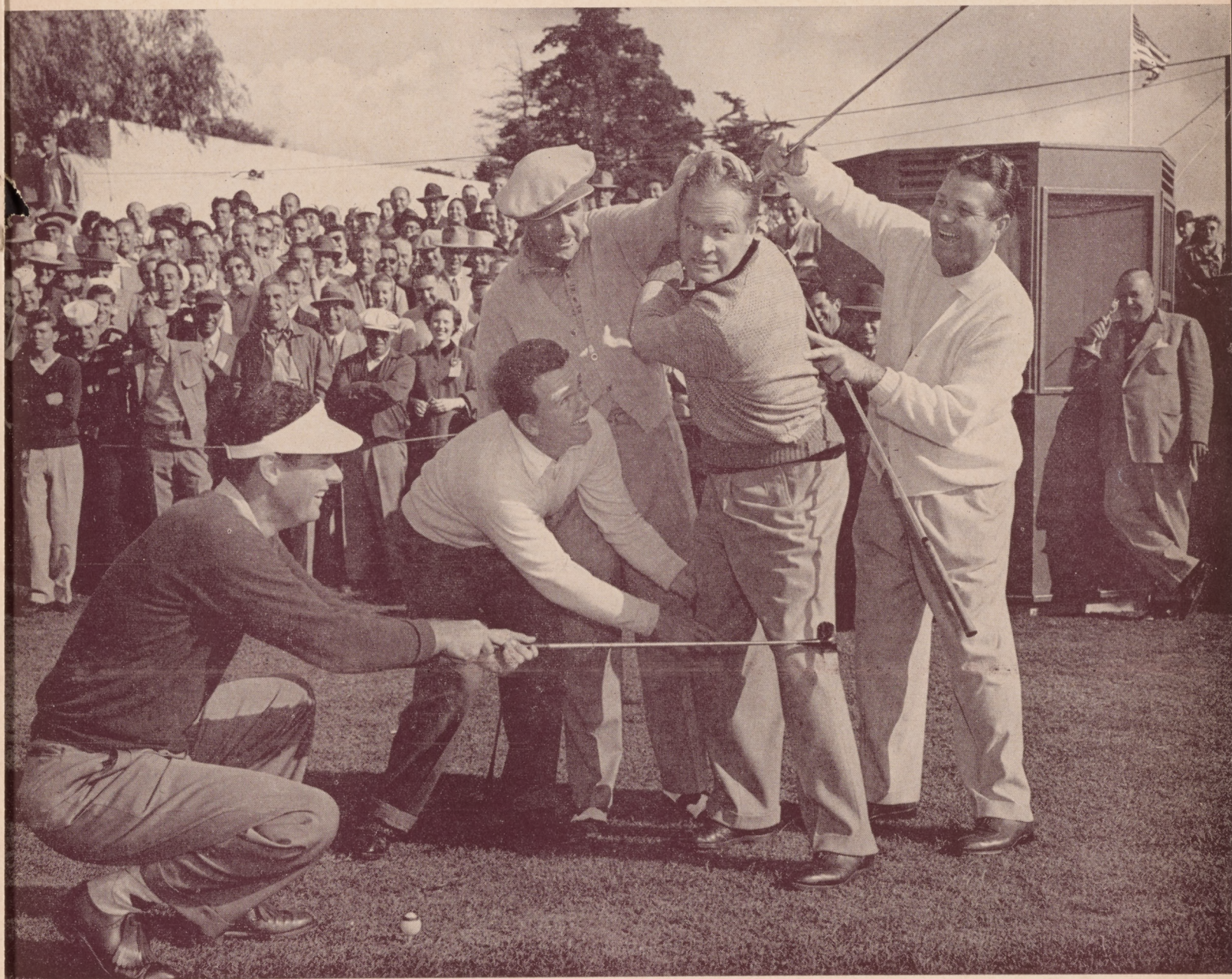
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THIS IS ONE TOURNAMENT YOU SHOULD SEE







Left—Clay Stearns fails to get the serious attention of his class as he attempts an oration from a perch atop the merry-go-round at the July School Daze party. That's Ralph Dietz, standing left, and Dottie Pierson, Ella Lou Kapp, Dorothy Dietz and Hal Kapp draped around the carousel.



Above — Manager "Ernie" Boudreau welcoming new member Gordon Cologne, left, to Shadow Mountain Club, as sponsor Al Ahrens, center, looks on. Cologne is mayor of Indio, California.

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## GIANT FERRIS WHEEL



Don't Miss The Country Fair  
Remember The Date - October 29 at Your Shadow Mountain Club



(Continued from page 9)

tez first sent his aide Pedro de Alvarado through this area to conquer—but native tribes forced Alvarado to retreat. The city was founded in 1575 by royal decree of Felipe II, but for many years it was an outpost in the wilderness besieged by the fierce Chichimecs. Modern today, Aguascalientes is known for its cotton, mills, pottery works and tanneries and especially famous for its drawn-linen work which is an important native industry.

South of Aguascalientes the next day we went through the fertile Morelia valley where we saw a number of old type water wheels driven by burros, and the first fields of pineapple near Leon. At Leon they have street signals, a large Sears store, also an airport. Leon specializes in making shawls, silver trimmed saddles and hand made shoes. The family workshop is still characteristic of this area. Just beyond Silao we turned off the highway about 7 miles to get to the ancient city of Guanajuato. Winding up a narrow cobble stone road we reached the famous Castillo de Santa Cecilia originally built by the Spanish conquistadores about 1680 and rebuilt a few years ago by Senor Manuel Quesada Brandi. It still retains the atmosphere of those early days. Here we found lodging on the American plan for 160 pesos (\$12.80) for a twin bedroom with bath. Built on the side of a mountain containing Mexico's most productive silver mine, we recommend staying in this medieval posada. The owner, Senor Brandi lives just below the castle in a beautiful hacienda and you are welcome to visit him by appointment. We found him very cordial.

Driving back to the main highway—45 we went south to Mexico City through a rich agricultural area into Toluca. From Toluca eastward to Mexico City the traffic became very heavy climbing up to the 10,000 foot altitude just before you drop down to Mexico's capital. Here we saw lovely pine trees, fields of century plants, and waving corn. Nearing the city we stopped at the government tourist information office, secured a guide who drove our car into downtown Mexico to find the Hotel Geneve where we were going to stay. It cost \$2.00 American money to have him render this service, and it was worth it. These guides are bonded and licensed, speak English and are careful drivers.

Our Geneve Hotel (very popular with tourists) was located just off the Reforma away from traffic. Around the corner is the garage. We paid \$5.60 American money for twin bedroom and bath but the rates could be lower or higher depending upon location of your room. We prefer the inside rooms as the parrots, you hear from the homes next door may disturb you if you sleep late. We enjoyed dinners while in Mexico City at the Swiss Chalet around the corner. Later we had dinner at the Rivoli nearby, Mexico's famous and most beautiful French restaurant. Lobster dinner was \$2.40 each, American money plus a tip of 5 pesos. We also had dinner at the famous Del Prado Hotel where most of the food is flown in from U.S.A. Sanborns is the most popular coffee shop. There are 3 of them in Mexico City. Not forgetting the wonderful meals of the Hotel Geneve which was tops in American food. The first day we had our guide drive our car to close in tourist spots until we became acquainted with the city. We visited the large markets of which there are a number in Mexico and a sight to see. The Palace of Fine Arts with its glass curtain; various government buildings around the Zocalo and then to Chapultepec Castle which is located on a hill 200 ft. high in Chapultepec Park. This castle was begun in 1783 by the Viceroy Galvez but was not completed until 1840 when it was fortified and made the home of the Military College. In 1847 during the finale of the Mexican war with U.S.A. this castle was captured by the Americans. Maximilian made this castle his royal resident in 1866 and his wife Carlotta designed the lovely formal gardens still there to see. It was until recently the home of the President of Mexico. Today the castle is a museum and contains many relics of Maximilian and Carlotta. It is perhaps the finest museum in all Mexico and contains painting and items that are priceless. The original site of the castle was the ancient seat of the Aztec Emperors.

Another most interesting historical spot is the Pyramids which are located about 33 miles from the heart of the city. On the way you pass the spot where the great Mexican patriot, Jose Morelos was shot by a firing squad in 1915. Then over the great drainage canal and an old wall protecting the causeway which was built by the Aztecs before the Spanish arrived in 1514. Both lakes have been dry for decades. We soon come to some rich farming country and approached two pyramids, one to the Sun and one to the Moon. You pay a small entrance fee and drive up to the Museum and parking space. These pyramids were already ruins when the Aztec tribes ruled this part of Mexico and thus they were created much before the Aztecs, presumably by an earlier race of people known only as the predecessors of the Toltecs, the tribe that preceded the Aztecs. These pyramids are guessed by scientists to date from the years 400 to 800 A.D. and thus were nearly a thousand years old when the Spaniards landed in Mexico in 1514. The pyramids were once the center of a very large primitive city as ruins and relics are found in an area of two miles around them. It was at one time a city of fine buildings

(Continued on page 14)

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(Continued from page 13)

whose walls carried colorful mural paintings and many specimens have been found. According to the reconstruction of this area by archaeologists a great avenue extended from the Pyramid of the Moon, past the steps of the Pyramid of the Sun and ended at the entrance of the city of Gods or the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. One could spend days roaming around these ruins.

Another important tourist spot is the "floating gardens" of Xochimilco on Sunday afternoon. This is a canal where the decorated boats take you for a ride at 20 pesos (or more) per hour depending upon your bargaining prowess. As you are pushed around in these old rafts, other rafts with vendors try to sell you everything from tortillas to serapes. Or you can probably buy at lower prices at the small shops lining the canal banks. It is the Mexicans' favorite recreation spot and a must on your visiting list. After seeing the floating gardens one usually goes direct to the large Bull Ring on the boulevard en route downtown. The bullfights start at 5 p.m. Tickets in the shade are 30 pesos or \$2.40 each. In the sun much less. Bullfighting was popular many centuries ago and has some special appeal to the Spanish and Mexican people. I think the grace and daring of the matadors is something to behold.

There are so many things to see in Mexico City of unusual interest space will not permit me going into detail but University City with its ultra-modern buildings, the Church of Guadalupe, with its mantle of the painting of the Virgin Mary, the National Museum, night clubs, glass factories, leather factories, open markets, the Mexican senate, race tracks, Tenampa, National Pawnshop and tree lined boulevards are among the prominent ones for Americans to see. Be sure and buy "Guide to Mexico City" by John Wilhelm which is complete with maps, etc., at the hotel.

We next took the trip over highway 95, which is a modern toll freeway, 46 miles to Cuernavaca, a haven for winter tourist residents and a resort for the great men of Mexico. Here you may buy most any advertised American product including fancy groceries. At Cuernavaca (alt. 5000 ft.) is located the palace which Cortez built for his retirement after having had the choice of any land in Mexico. This palace was built in 1530 and is now a government building. There is a beautiful waterfalls, pyramids, large cathedral, and the famous Borda gardens. The shops and plaza are extremely interesting.

From Cuernavaca we drove over the new highway into the tropical mountains of the coast on the way to Acapulco. This reminds one of Hawaii with its banana, mango and pineapple plantations. It is 233 miles from Cuernavaca to Acapulco, the jewel of the Pacific. It was founded in 1550, and was a port for the Spanish galleons during the occupation. The bay is 3 miles long, and almost landlocked by gorgeous green hills for here the heavy tropical rains rush in.

Here we found the comfortable Hotel Santa Clara, overlooking the bay. Owned by a German and his lovely Mexican wife the food and hospitality was delightful. This is an AAA hotel and we paid \$120.00 pesos (\$9.60 American money) for a twin bedroom, bath, veranda and 3 meals. Acapulco is famous for its deep sea fishing, boating, water skiing, and its well known morning and afternoon beaches. We drove north to Pie de la Cuesta, a most gorgeous stretch of beach with 20 ft. breakers, and south to Puerto Marques another well known beach.

After a wonderful two days in Acapulco shopping, swimming and sightseeing we turned off to visit Taxco on our way to Mexico City.

Taxco is a national monument with cobblestone streets on mountain roads. It is the center of the hand made silver industry of Mexico. The houses have red tile roofs and being built on hillsides makes it appear like a unique stage setting. Taxco has changed little in appearance since its establishment in 1522 by Cortez.

After a rest of a few days in Mexico City we started our return journey north via the Pan American Highway to re-enter the U.S.A. at Laredo. This highway 85 goes through lush tropical and mountainous country. The grades in the mountains just south of Tamazunchale are the worst grades with narrow roads we have ever encountered in our travels anywhere. This section of the highway should be taken in the morning hours before the heavy fog accumulates in the afternoon. It is interesting country but it is slow going. Arriving at Tamazunchale which is 230 miles from Mexico City, we were grateful to find the AAA San Antonio hotel owned and managed by the Hollingworths, Americans who have lived in Mexico many years. It had a swimming pool, modern, clean rooms, and most excellent food.

Leaving Tamazunchale (394 ft. alt.) in a narrow canyon, we drove to lower altitudes through Valles into Ciudad Victoria where we stayed all night at a new motel, and had dinner at Turner's, owned by a former dentist (American) of Mexico City. Leaving Ciudad Victoria we drove down into tropical country—the most beautiful—with its pineapple, papaya and banana plantations, arriving at the famous city of Monterrey that evening. It is the leading industrial city of the republic and altitude is 1700 ft. Founded in 1596 by the Count of Monterrey it has mostly one way streets, beautiful modern homes, a State University, State Capital, Federal Palace, the markets, and (El Obisado) Bishop's Palace on Chepe Verea Hill which was built in 1782 and used as a Fort in the 1846 American-Mexican War, also by the French in 1864 and later by Villa and Carranza. We stayed at the Anfa Super Motel, 2 miles north on 85 highway for 2 days it was so lovely. It is an outstanding resort with its swimming pool, air conditioning throughout, and its lovely rooms with bath. Rate \$6.10 per day American money, E plan. The dining room was of the best, and the motel also owned the famous Louisiana Restaurant in downtown Monterrey which was wonderful. It was only 125 miles to Laredo and stopping enroute to have a nice breakfast at Power's Cafe & Store, at Sabinas Hidalgo we headed toward home.

(Continued on page 15)

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Gene Steel .....	Secretary
Thelma Ratterree .....	Accounting
Ruth Steiner .....	Receptionist
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Vini Rurac .....	Tennis Pro
Bob Pinnell .....	Golf Pro
Bob Smith .....	Steward
Frank Constant .....	Maitre d'Hotel

(Continued from page 14)

A checking station was encountered enroute to Laredo where our papers were inspected. Arriving at the Mexican customs at Laredo they examined our 6 month tourist permit and kept it. Here you pay a toll charge to go over the Rio Grande on the pontoon bridge. The ninto the American customs where you back your car into a stall and on official tells you to take out your baggage and purchases from Mexico. He also asks for your vaccination certificate. We had made out our declaration of all purchases at Monterrey as the AAA had instructed us. This expedited our entry. An attendant repacked our things and we gave him a tip as he was not a government employee. Here we were back in the good old U.S.A. after a most enjoyable sojourn in old Mexico. Truly this experience of traveling through Mexico is one we shall never forget. We have 110 color slides to show for it. Without the help of AAA we do not know how we could have traveled so comfortably. If you want to know how our Mexican neighbors live, love, play and eat, take off for the land below the border. We saw Mexico by auto and liked it. We hope you will too. Adios, Amigos!

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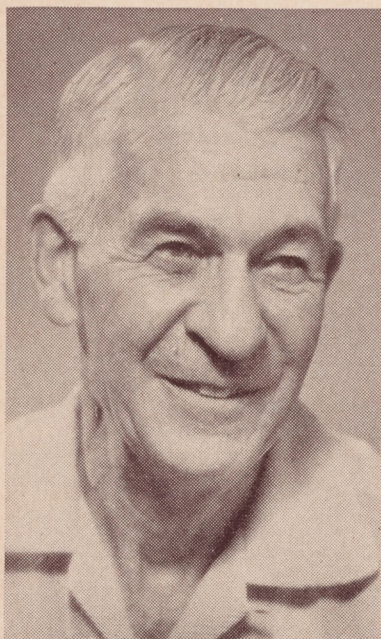
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